

UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

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July 2, 2009

**OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL**

**Thomasenia P. Duncan, General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463**

**Re: Complaint
BASF Corporation and
BASF Corporation Employees
Political Action Committee,
FEC Committee, FEC ID: C00340075**

MUR # 6206

Dear General Counsel Duncan:

Pursuant to 2 USC 437 (g) (a) (1) and Section 111.4 of the Commission's Regulations, the United Steelworkers ("USW") submits this Complaint against BASF Corporation, 100 Campus Drive, Florham Park, NJ 07932, ("BASF").

The USW is a labor organization that represents, for collective bargaining, production and maintenance employees of BASF at various locations, including those employed at BASF's Geismar Site at Geismar, Louisiana. The current collective bargaining agreement between BASF and the USW was negotiated from June through November 2007.

Section 114.5 (k) of the FEC's Regulations provides that a corporation that uses a method (such as payroll deduction) for collecting contributions from its executive and administrative personnel to the corporation's separate segregated political action fund must, upon written request by a labor organization representing the corporation's employees, provide the labor organization with the same method used by the corporation to facilitate collecting voluntary contributions from the union's members to its separate segregated political action fund.

During the USW/BASF collective bargaining negotiations, the USW included in its written bargaining demands a request that BASF provide the USW with a payroll deductions program, the same method used by BASF for collecting contributions by BASF executive and administrative personnel for making contributions to BASF's political fund, to facilitate the collection of voluntary contributions from USW bargaining unit employees to the USW's political action fund. Copies of documents from those negotiations are enclosed along with this letter as Exhibit A. It is not disputed that BASF uses a payroll deduction system for collecting contributions from its executive and administrative personnel to the BASF Corporation Employees Political Action Committee, which is registered with the FEC with the ID C00340075.

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

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BASF has not made available to the USW a payroll deduction program for contributions by USW bargaining unit employees to the USW's Political Action Fund. As recently as June 2009, Mr. E. J. Billedeaux, director of labor relations at the Geismar Site for BASF agreed, in a telephone conversation with the undersigned, that the corporation is obligated to make a payroll deduction program for bargaining unit employees' contributions to the USW's political action fund available to USW; see enclosed Exhibit B. Nevertheless, BASF continues to refuse or fails to make such method available to the USW.

Accordingly, the USW respectfully requests the FEC to take all appropriate action against BASF to remedy its violation of Regulation Section 114.5 (k).

The statements made in this letter are based on my personal knowledge, except that the statements concerning the 2007 collective bargaining negotiations are made on information provided by Mr. John Link, USW Staff Representative, who was the chief spokesperson for the USW in its 2007 bargaining negotiations between BASF and the USW.

Very truly yours,

UNITED STEELWORKERS

William H. Schmelling

William H. Schmelling
Associate General Counsel

cjg

State of Illinois)

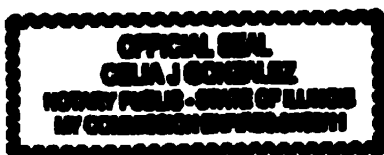
SS

County of Cook)

William Schmelling, having been first duly sworn, states that the statements made in the foregoing letter, are true, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

William H. Schmelling
William H. Schmelling

Signed and sworn to me this
2nd day of July 2009.



Celia J. Gonzalez
Notary Public

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